

CLAIMS

1. An improvement in a system for automatically monitoring the operational status of one or more copier machines from a remote location, each copier machine having a copier control computer for determining copier status, comprising means for monitoring status information from the copier control computer, a translator associated with each copier including means to adapt status information from the specific copier machine into uniform status information for transmission to the remote location and means for transmitting information between the translator of each copier and the remote location, said improvement comprising a two component translator, said components to communicate by means for communication, wherein the first component is located within the copier machine and comprises a smart tap, comprising a voltage level converter, means to adapt status information specific to the copier machine it services to uniform status information, and a central processing unit (CPU) to process the status information and transmit and receive communications between the first and second components, and the second component comprises a universal component, not specific copier machine dependent, located external to the copier machine comprising a central processing unit (CPU) which receives information from the first component and transmits said information to the remote location.

2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising means to poll the translator for each copier machine, to obtain copier machine status information, from the remote location.

3. The system of Claim 2 wherein the means to poll the translator of each copier machine comprises a scanner.

4. The system of Claim 2 further comprising a central computer at the remote location to poll, assemble and format the status information from the one or more copier machines.

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• 13. The system of Claim 1 wherein the means for transmitting information and commands between the translator for each copier and the remote location is taken from the group comprising telephone lines, hardwiring, fiber optics and RF transmission/reception.

14. The system of Claim 1 further comprising means to read keystrokes generated on the copier from the remote location.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the means to read keystrokes generated on the copier from the remote location comprises a predetermined number of latches within the first component of the translator, said latches capturing column sense signals generated by keystrokes on the copier keyboard and at the remote location and read by the copier control computer to activate a specific function, wherein the latches are read by the central processing unit of the first component and evaluated for copier specific information which is transmitted to the remote location.

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